

Service Date: November 27, 1991

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of Hot Springs	)	UTILITY DIVISION
Telephone Company's Proposal to	)	
Increase Telephone Rates Pursuant	)	DOCKET NO. 91.8.32
to § 69-3-901 <u>et seq.</u> , MCA	)	ORDER NO. 5586

FINAL ORDER

BACKGROUND

On August 26, 1991 Hot Springs Telephone Company (Company) filed a notice of new local service rates to become effective following the notice period required by law. This filing was made pursuant to §§ 69-3-901 et seq., MCA, which allow rates of "small telecommunications providers" to go into effect 60 days after notice, without Public Service Commission (Commission) review, if the provisions of Part 9 are satisfied and no hearing is requested.

On August 15, 1991 an Informal Public Meeting was held at the Hot Springs Senior Citizens Center at which the Company's proposals were discussed and public comment received.

On October 25, 1991 the Company filed a letter with the Commission requesting that the effective date of the new rates be deferred until December 1, 1991.

Pursuant to § 69-3-907, MCA, the Commission hereby certifies to Hot Springs Telephone that the Commission has not

received petitions containing signatures from at least 10 percent of the affected customers in a rate category or a petition for review from the Montana Consumer Counsel.

Pursuant to § 69-3-907, MCA, the Commission hereby notifies the Company that the proposed new rates will become effective December 1, 1991 without Commission review.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Hot Springs Telephone Company is a public utility offering regulated telecommunications service in Montana. §§ 69-3-101 and 69-3-803(3), MCA.

Hot Springs Telephone Company has complied with the notice requirements of § 69-3-903, MCA. The Company has filed proposed tariffs with the Commission reflecting the new rates.

The Commission has not received petitions requesting review from at least 10 percent of the affected customers in a rate category or from the Montana Consumer Counsel, and the Commission has not reviewed the proposed rates. § 69-3-904, MCA.

#### ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the proposed rate changes as contained in the Notice become effective on December 1, 1991, by operation of law. The effective rates for local service of Hot Springs Telephone may not be increased for a period of six months from December 1, 1991, except as ordered by the Commission.

Done and Dated this 18th day of November, 1991 by a vote of 5  
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BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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HOWARD L. ELLIS, Chairman

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DANNY OBERG, Vice Chairman

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BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

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JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

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WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Peck  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission  
reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be  
filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.